Funerals

Mrs. Amanda Sears

COTTAGE GROVE, Dec. 20—(Special)—Funeral service will be held for Mrs. Amanda Sears who died Sunday, Thursday afternoon at 1:30, at Mills chapel. Rev. H. W. Davis will officiate. Interment will be at the Sears cemetery.

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Brison Sears Dies Near Cottage Grove

COTTAGE GROVE, Sept. 17.—(Special)—Brison Sears died at his home at Mt. View, east of Cottage Grove at 11:15 a. m. Monday morning, at the age of 53 years. He was born at Cottage Grove Sept. 2, 1887. He was a farmer and the son of the late Charles and Amanda Sears. He is survived by two brothers and one sister, Charles Sears of Cottage Grove, Mrs. Edna Brumfield, Cottage Grove, and Dr. Andy Sears of Jacksonville, Fla. He has lived in and around Cottage Grove all of his life. Funeral services will be announced later from the Mills chapel.

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Newspaper Clippings – Sears Obituaries 1939 and 1940

From the Toner Dear Estate

Notes

Jeffrey Hunt
Novermber 2 2025

Two obituary clippings — one for **Amanda Sears** (d. 1939) and one for **Brison Sears** (d. 1940) — were found among the loose papers that came through **Blanche Toner Dear** as part of the **Toner Dear estate**. They likely trace back through **Bertha Toner**, and possibly to **Esther Wells Smith**.

The Sears family has not yet been connected to the Toners or Dears by blood or marriage, but their names appear in the same grouping of saved family materials — letters, notes, and photographs — suggesting a relationship of some significance, even if indirect. Whether they were friends, neighbors, or extended kin isn't clear. What's certain is that someone thought these clippings belonged with the family papers.

Details from the notices:

- **Amanda Sears**, died **December 17 1939**; funeral held at Mills Chapel; burial listed as Sears Cemetery.
- **Brison Sears**, died **September 16 1940**, age 53, at home near Cottage Grove; son of Charles and Amanda Sears.

The connection remains a loose thread within the collection, but their preservation alongside the Toner Dear material suggests that photographs of the Sears family are almost certainly present somewhere in the same group of papers and albums — still waiting to be identified.